

Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. UNGA ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S CREDENTIALS

USUN REPORTS THAT THE UNGA ACCEPTED THE CONSENSUS CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT, THUS ACCEPTING ISRAEL'S CREDENTIALS.

--FOLLOWING AN AGREED ARAB STRATEGY, LIBYA SPOKE AGAINST ISRAEL BEFORE THE VOTE. WHEN ISRAEL REPLIED AFTER THE VOTE, SAUDI ARABIA AND SYRIA REBUTTED.

--GIVEN THE LIMITED ARAB POLEMICS, THE US DID NOT SPEAK. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 4661, 10/2.)

2. MIDDLE EAST: EGYPTIAN SOVIET RELATIONS

EMBASSY CAIRO WRITES THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS LONG DIS- TRUSTED, ALMOST TO THE POINT OF PERSONAL PHOBIA, SOVIET
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MIDDLE EAST POLICIES. THE SOVIET REACTION TO SINAI II HAS

CONVINCED HIM THAT HIS ANTIPATHY IS JUSTIFIED.

THE EMBASSY POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD SADAT CONTINUE TO DENOUNCE THEM THE SOVIETS COULD CUT OFF MILITARY SUPPLIES AND SPARE PARTS, STOP FURTHER EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT, AND

REVISE VITAL (FOR EGYPT) BILATERAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. CONVERSELY, EGYPT STILL HOLDS SEVERAL TRUMP CARDS AS YET UNPLAYED, INCLUDING:

--THEIR PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE SOVIET RELIANCE ON GOOD RELATIONS TO BOLSTER THEIR PRESENCE IN THE AREA;

--CONTINUING SOVIET ACCESS TO NAVAL FACILITIES IN ALEXANDRIA; AND

--POSSIBLE ABROGATION OF THE 1971 TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE BOTH PARTIES HAVE AN INTEREST IN AVOIDING FURTHER DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS, IT IS CERTAIN THAT SADAT WILL ASK THE US TO RESCUE HIS SINKING SHIP SHOULD THE RUPTURE TAKE PLACE. (SECRET) CAIRO 9801 (LIMDIS), 10/1.)

3. PORTUGAL: OTELO LOSES CREDIBILITY WITH MODERATES

ACCORDING TO A HIGH SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) OFFICIAL, COPCON COMMANDER OTELO, HAVING ACCEPTED AN ULTRALEFTIST INVITATION TO REMOVE THE PRIME MINISTER, ARRIVED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SEPTEMBER 30, WHEREUPON AZEVEDO INSTRUCTED ANTUNES TO "THROW THE FOOL OUT." THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT, WHILE HE STILL CAN COUNT ON GOOD SUPPORT FROM MILITARY ENLISTED MEN AND MIGHT BE BACKED UP BY HIS FAR LEFTIST FRIENDS IF AN EFFORT WERE MADE TO OUST HIM, OTELO IS ON SHAKY GROUND AND DOES LOOK MORE AND MORE THE FOOL. (SECRET) LISBON 5777 (LIMDIS), 10/1.)

4. PHILIPPINES: GOVERNMENT AT A STANDSTILL

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AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN REPORTS THAT NEVER SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN MANILA TWO YEARS AGO HAS HE SEEN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IN GREATER DISORDER. THREATS TO PURGE THE MILITARY AND MINISTERIAL ABSENCES AT DEFENSE, TREASURY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE ADDED TO THE GENERAL SLOWDOWN OF DECISIONS, INCLUDING THOSE EFFECTING US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATION: PATIENCE. (CONFIDENTIAL)
MANILA 13785 (LIMDIS), 10/1.) KISSINGER

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